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STATINTL

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The 11th anniversary of Hitler's invasion of the USSR gets considerable play on foreign and domestic beams but the treatment of the occasion is largely familiar. Commentaries on the last war, some of them by the military, uniformly stress the hostile intentions of the Western allies toward the USSR, and de-emphasize the advantages of the wartime partnership to the Soviet Union. Thus, according to Gen. Kurasov (20 June), the second front was undertaken only when the Americans and the British became "frightened by the crushing offensive" of the Soviet army. And even then, the author declares, Allied operations were calculated to "hamper" the growing strength of the USSR and to "prevent" the complete collapse of the German army which is said to have been intended for future use as "an antidemocratic force" in Europe. The general goes on to say that the Anglo-Americans, following their landing on the European continent, found themselves in "an extremely difficult situation" as a result of the German counter offensive in the Ardennes. They appealed to Stalin for help and he, "fulfilling his duty as an ally", made such help available by way of launching an offensive earlier than planned. The obvious inference from Kurasov's talk is that the Soviet army had to bear the double burden of defeating the German armies "single handedly", on the one hand, and "saving the American and British armies from complete defeat", on the other.

Gen. Sukhomlin tells the home audience (22 June) of the "rejoicing" in the Anglo-American camp when they thought that "Russia was doomed." He makes the point that although the Western world would like to see the Soviet Union disarmed, the latter intends to preserve its armed strength so as to be able to meet an eventual attack by the West "in a fully armed state."

An anonymous commentary beamed to Germany on 21 June intimates that the motif behind the present tense international situation is the world imperialists' hatred for the Soviet Union and their desire "to annihilate it." Such considerations, it is claimed, have governed the West's attitude toward the USSR since its birth. The capitalist countries, says the commentary, "not only dreamed but actually exerted themselves" to prevent the building of socialism in the Soviet state. The last war, it appears, has failed to drive home the lesson that the "lust for world domination" is doomed to a shameful defeat. This is said to apply particularly to the United States, "candidates for world domination." The latter, in fact, "is already waging war -- in Asia", employing barbaric bacteriological weapons.

PRAVDA's comment on the anniversary is much in the same vein. The paper refers to the present "rivalry between the two systems" and the obvious advantages enjoyed by the Soviet camp. Adventures toward world domination, the editorial says, are unprofitable as witness the outcome of world war two. Should the Western imperialists ignore the lessons of history and "launch a new world war" they will find that the fate in store for them is similar to that that befell the Hitler clique which preceded them.

INDUSTRY

Referring to the growing incidence of labor discipline violations in the oblast, STALINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA (13 June) asserts that such violations amount to "manifestations of capitalist survivals" (proyavleniya perezhitkov kapitalizma). Unfortunately, the paper admits, an increase in absenteeism from work and tardiness has recently been noted in several industrial enterprises, construction projects, collective and state farms and machine tractor stations. Even the model Stalingrad Tractor Plant, the Red October Plant, the Shipyard and the Stalingrad Railway Line have shown "many weaknesses" in socialist labor discipline during the past ten months. Criticized in this connection are the methods employed by the various political branches and Party organizations in combatting that evil. On the Stalingrad Railway branch, for example, severe violations of labor discipline are "negligently overlooked" while in several (unnamed) enterprises, on the other hand, any infraction of labor discipline brings on endless investigations and uncalled for administrative measures. Education and persuasion, the paper argues, are always preferable to administrative orders. Punishment of violators is, of course, not ruled out but that alone, it is claimed, will not remedy the situation. It might be a good idea, therefore, to try to "exercise responsible influence" on all those who violate labor discipline.

Low quality production and subsequent wastage of raw materials, says RABOCHIIY PUT (11 June) still characterize the operations of many of the oblast plants. This is particularly evident in the production of bricks, industrial lumber and fats. The state plan, it is reiterated, specifies certain minima for quantity and quality and either one of them alone will not do. It appears, however, that the above mentioned branches of the oblast industry, while faltering in qualitative performance, are also behind the quantitative end of the plan. Warning against the frequently used ruse of concealing the failures of individual enterprises behind impressive average figures, the paper says that plan fulfillment will be judged by the performance of every plant, factory and artel. It is up to the Party, Soviet and trade union

organizations to step up the production output by stricter supervision. An improvement in quality on the other hand, will require more far-reaching measures. Inadequate qualitative performance, it is implicitly admitted, is the direct outcome of insufficient personnel training: "the qualifications of engineers and technicians should be raised, and advanced methods of work should be publicized as widely as possible..."

In a lengthy editorial on "the new progressive movement of leading industrial workers" (progressivnoye dvizhenie peredovykh rabochikh promyshlennosti), MOLOD regretfully admits (11 June) that the drive is not gaining the anticipated momentum among the oblast industrial enterprises. That this new "movement", designed as it is to raise production speed to the stakhanovite level, is not popular with the average workers and a part of the management may be inferred from the paper's remark that in a number of plants the fast stakhanovites are not given the opportunity to demonstrate their speed. The drive to introduce the fast metal-cutting method in the machine-building industry, for example, has not been very successful since the management in many enterprises "do not show any desire to provide productive conditions for those stakhanovites who do use fast methods." The paper complains also that the plants which finally adopted fast production methods are not the object of emulation on the part of other industrial units. Thus the industries of Iagarsk, Novocherkassk and other cities, for example, have not shown any anxiety to copy the "progressive methods" of their Rostov counterparts. Nor is the machine-building industry alone in its reluctance to introduce higher work tempos: "a similar situation may be noted in coal production and other branches of industry."

Indifference to rationalization and innovations in production is the object of editorial discussion by SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DOKRAS (13 June). A recent oblast conference of the heads of "Rationalization and Inventions Bureaus" (byuro ratsionalizatsii i izobreteniy), says the paper, disclosed that "in most cases" the work of these bureaus "is limited to the registration" of proposals designed to effect savings or improve production. Urging more attention to workers' proposals that might contribute to greater production efficiency, the editorial intimates that the indifferent attitude towards the workers' useful suggestions tends to discourage their interest in the plant since it deprives them of certain emoluments:

The task of the Rationalization and Inventions Bureaus is to see that every proposal is properly evaluated...and that the originator is awarded the necessary prize for the realized measure and the timely care.

Innovations of a different kind, which are liable to make matters worse, are sharply criticized in an unsigned PRAVDA article of 16 June (not broadcast). The administration of the Tashkent railroad line, anxious to improve traffic safety, has added a new type of employee to its pay roll, the "public inspector" (obshchestvennyi revizor), in addition to the regular road inspectors. This "dubious innovation" (sumnitelnoye novshestvo), says the article, was supported by the daily TRANSPORTNIY RABOCHIIY, and before long an army of "public inspectors" made its appearance on the railroad. Having no specific duties of their own, these inspectors began to interfere with the functions of the regular inspectors, and in some cases even tried to replace the station dispatcher (dezhurniy po stantsii). Far from improving railroad traffic, such uncalled for inspections, it is claimed, are most likely to disorganize it. This "manifestation of bureaucratic creativity" (obrazets kabinetno-byurokraticheskogo tvorchestva) has nothing to do with traffic safety or efficiency, and should be discontinued as soon as possible. The mentioned railroad paper is castigated for its inability to differentiate between the creative initiative of the masses, on the one hand, and the "inventions and enterprises born in offices", on the other.

The drive for the introduction of "progressive technical norms" (progressivnye tekhnicheskie normy), says PRAVDA UCRAINY (17 June), should be extended to include the medium and small enterprises catering to the consumers. The Party organizations of the Republic "must pay more attention" to this neglected branch of industry where the manufacturing processes leave much room for improvement. The familiar cure-all suggested for the rest of the Soviet industry is said to be applicable also to production for the consumers: the workers of these enterprises must be encouraged to increase labor productivity by "mechanizing labor processes..." The introduction of "progressive norms" in the enterprises of the local and co-operative industries is advocated also by KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA on 19 June. The average consumer, it is implicitly admitted, is still getting a raw deal from the Republic's local industries, particularly in the rural areas where a number of household articles are still unobtainable. Tailor shops, dyeing and cleaning establishments and other services are still far too inadequate, and a variety of other "requirements of the local population" are often forgotten. Inexpensive goods of good quality is what the population wants, according to the paper, and only "a radical improvement" (rezkoye uluchsheniye) in the leadership of the consumer

industry will make such production possible.

Pursuing its first-production theme of last week, MOLDI observes on 19 June that "more than a few" backward enterprises in the oblast are still holding up industrial progress. Among them, incidentally, are some of the largest plants in the oblast: The Taganrog Combine Works, the Lenin Locomotive Repair Works, The Budenny Electric Locomotive Building Works, many mines and sections of the Rostov Coal Combine and others. Some of these units are said to have been backward for more than a month, others for "more than a year." The failure of the mentioned plants to stick to their production schedules is particularly ominous now, "on the threshold of the second half year", and leaving the first semi-annual plan unfilled by the end of this month "will not be tolerated."

A letter to Stalin from the Transcarpathian oil and gas workers, broadcast from Kiev on 18 June, conventionally lists the achievements already attained by that industry and just as conventionally pleads guilty to the failure to do better:

The workers of the Transcarpathian petroleum industry realize that in spite of their achievements they have done very little, and the country has a right to demand more from them.

More oil is demanded also in a speech by Bagirov, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijan Communist Party, transmitted from Baku on the same day. Without mentioning any figures, absolute or in percentage terms, the Secretary asserts that the fulfillment of the oil production plan will require "further struggle." The successful outcome of this struggle can only be ensured by intensified socialist competition on the part of all the workers of the industry. Some reference is made, in this connection, to certain aspects of the oil workers' welfare. Bagirov called for better conditions for the workers "so that neither the weather nor any other inconvenience could affect the uninterrupted work of an oil field or mine." It is revealed that the workers are often handicapped by lack of transportation and are unable to return home on time. "Jas and other things", are not always available to them.

The quantity-quality production theme is discussed by PRAVDA in highly critical terms on 21 June. Reminding its readers that the unconditional fulfillment of the state plan in point of quantity and assortment is the "immutable law" (neprelozhnyi zakon) of Soviet production, the paper points to the consumer industry as the worst offender. The quality of the mass-consumption goods (tovary shirokogo potreblieniia) turned out by many of the light industry enterprises is still shoddy, while the race for high quantity indices results in "great losses from rejects" (bolshie poteri ot braka). Of particularly inferior quality are the outdoor clothing and headgear (verkhnaya odevka i golovnye ubory) now put out for sale-- indeed "there is no demand for them among the population" (ne polizuyutsia sprosom u naseleniia). An extreme example of low production quality is cited in the case of the Kuibyshev and Kaganovitch footwear plants:

The Vitebsk department store received from those plants 846 pairs of "first-class footwear." After a check up, 696 pairs had to be regraded as lower quality and rejects.

Russian version:

Vitebskiy universmag poluchil ot etikh fabrik 846 par obuvi 1-go sorta. Pri proverke 12 etoy partii bylo perevedano v ponizhenii sorta i v brak 696 par.

Similar examples of inferior production are said to have been furnished by the ready-made garment industry which "is also in debt to the Soviet consumer" (i takzhe v dolgu u sovetskogo potrebitele). Thus the several hundred dresses received by the Gorki clothing marketing center (Glavshnabyt) had to be condemned (zabrahovany) and returned to the shipper. Nothing but a "slapdash attitude toward the business at hand" (khalturnoye otnoshenie k delu) the paper concludes can explain the continued indifference to the quality of consumer goods.

PUBLIC WELFARE

The well-being of the Soviet consumer, not often the object of official solicitude, gets some attention also from a different source -- the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions. In a lengthy decision adopted at its 8th plenary session, the Council urges a far-reaching improvement of practically every aspect of the workers' welfare. Referring to housing construction for the workers, the decision points out that "a number of ministries and departments" (ryad ministerstv i vedomstv) have not fulfilled the plan, but offers no further details. The organization of medical service is said to be too inferior to meet the daily

requirements of the working people. There is an acute shortage of prophylactic and first-aid clinics, convalescent and convalescent homes as well as recreation facilities for the children of industrial workers. One of the most serious shortcomings in the medical service, however, is the inadequate training of the medical personnel itself, and great efforts are urged to raise its qualifications.

The welfare topic is echoed by a number of regional transmitters. A report from Bryansk (19 June) speaks of the shortcomings in the oblast retail trade organizations, particularly in the "building of welfare premises" in the towns and villages." The current demand for consumer goods, it is asserted, is not being met. ZARYA VOSTOKA (19 June) declares that the leadership of the retail trade network, "from the Minister down to the ordinary trade worker's, is now undergoing a test to show "evidence of accurate fulfillment" of their new and greater tasks. The deficiencies in the work of the trading organizations must be effectively eliminated so that better care may be taken of the consumers' demands. SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DONBAS (21 June) calls for the ousting of retail trade executives "who are unreliable both in regard to their political and labor principles" and the exercising of greater caution in the enrollment, distribution and education of personnel. Socialist competition, says the paper, must be encouraged among the workers of public dining rooms, tea rooms, buffets and restaurants, and the "struggle against waste" should be intensified. STAVROPOLSKAYA PRAVDA (20 June) speaks in disparaging terms of the "bureaucratic and spiritless attitude" toward patients on the part of the medical personnel, and the "low sanitary and healing level" in rural medical institutions. Medical service is said to be at its worst in Voroshilovsk, Sovetskiy, Stepnovskiy and an unspecified number of other rayons.

Discussing arrangements for the organization of summer camps and recreation for children, RADIANSKA UKRAINA (21 June) makes the implicit suggestion that this matter should not be left entirely in the hands of the Komsomol organizations: "The experience of past years shows that the Komsomol organizations are frequently forgetting about the health improvement of rural school children and pioneers." It is pointed out, in this connection, that pioneer camps in Kiev oblast are being organized "very slowly" because the Party "probably left this matter entirely" to the Komsomol organizations.

IDEOLOGICAL AWARNESS

An Androsenko article carried by RADIANSKA UKRAINA on 13 June reports that "the scope and level" (rozmakh ta riven) of the lecture propaganda in Iernopol oblast are far below expectations. Discussing the number and ideological quality of the lectures recently delivered in the oblast, the author classifies them under the appropriate title of "serious shortcomings and errors" (seriozni khyty i pomylyki). The members of the oblast lecture Bureau, it is reported, are to prepare a minimum of four lectures each per year, but for some reason or other, that responsibility is systematically shirked:

Staff lecturer comrade Murai prepared only one lecture in the past five years. For the delivery of this lecture comrade Murai received about 30,000 rubles during those five years.

Ukrainian version:

Shchitnyi lektor-metodyst tov. Murai za pyat rokiv pidgotuvava lyshch adnu lektaiu. Zachitannya tsiei lektaii tov. Murai za pyat rokiv oderzhala kolo 30 tysiach kharbovantsiv.

Nor are the subjects selected for that type of propaganda very satisfactory, according to the article. The "sample text" (prymyrmnyi tekst) of the lectures on the criminal activities of the Ukrainian bourgeois-nationalists, for example, is not always followed to the letter. Indeed the stress on these nationalists as the worst enemies of the Ukrainian people, and on similar important subjects is said to be entirely inadequate:

...still too few lectures are given...on antireligious themes, too few of the lectures delivered uncover the hostile ideology of the Ukrainian bourgeois-nationalists. Entirely too few lectures deal with the collective farm system and the Stalin Agricultural Artel Statute.

...shche malo chitayut lektsiy...na antyreligiyny temy, malo chitaetsya lektsiy, yaki vykryvaly b vorozhu ideologiyu ukrainskykh burzhuaznykh natsionalistiv. Zovsim nedosit chitaetsya lektsiy pro kolgospniy lad, pro stalin-skiy Statut silskogospodarskoy artili.

Androsenko also wonders why there so little attention is devoted to the "criminal activities of the 'father of darkness' -- the pope of Rome" (zlochynstva 'ottsya t'my' -- papy rymskogo), and the Vatican's ties with the Ukrainian bourgeois-nationalists in the postwar period.

That Uzbek SSR is mending its ideological ways too slowly is the opinion of the recent plenary session of the Central Committee of the Republic's Communist Party (15 June, not broadcast). As inferred from Tursunov's report to the Session, the 22,000 lectures delivered in the Republic last year by more than 90,000 agitators have not been too effective in eliminating certain tendencies inimical to the interests of the Soviet state:

Private-property tendencies, petty-bourgeois wantonness, nationalist and religious prejudices are manifested by the backward section of the population.

Russian version:

Imeyutsya fakty proyavleniya so storony otstaloj chasti naseleniya chastnosobstvennicheskikh tendentsiy, melkoburzhuaznoy raspushchennosti, natsionalnykh i religioznykh predrassudkov.

Unlike the situation in the Ukraine referred to earlier in this report, the Uzbek lecturers are said to be indulging in excessive speech-making, and their achievements in point of numbers of lectures read are really impressive. Many of those lectures, however, delivered as they are by 'windbags' (khalturshchiki) are of dubious ideological value. One such lecturer in Fergana, for example, managed to rattle off 79 lectures in two months, including three lectures delivered at the same collective farm within two hours.

Among the other shortcomings aired at the mentioned session was the slow reaction to official directives on the part of the Union of Uzbek Writers, the Composers Union and the Republican Administration for Art Affairs. Just what those official injunctions are is not specified but these organizations are said to show lack of concern for new artistic, literary, musical and dramatic works of a "high ideological content." Passing reference is also made to "instances of a feudal-bey attitude toward the women" (sluchai feodalno-baiskogo otnosheniya k zhenshchine) but the theme is not pursued.

A partial list of the ideological problems yet to be solved is contained in the following quotations from an anonymous talk for political schools (12 June);

In the minds of the people streaks of capitalism are still alive...

But the minds of the people cannot be immediately cleared of the views, habits and prejudices which were drilled into them for centuries...

Some of the Soviet people, however, still remember the old views. Some collective farm workers...expand their own individual farms at the expense of collective husbandry...

Among the engineers and technicians there are still people who disdain new, advanced methods of work...they look back to the old, backward norms of achievement.

There are still not a few persons with old views who show no care for socialist property. There are even people who encroach upon socialist property.

There are still people in our country whose attitude to the bourgeois order is not critical; they are still prepared to kowtow to all that is foreign.

Broadcasting for students of dialectical and historical materialism on 20 June, Natov and Filipova caution their listeners against "the danger of bourgeois objectivity" (opasnost burzhuaznoy obyektivnosti) in analyzing the current period of transition from socialism to communism. It must always be borne in mind, they aver, that social changes in the capitalist world are usually brought about by "lurches and explosions" (skachki i vzryvy). These methods, as interpreted by Stalin, are predetermined by the "class nature" (klassoviy kharakter) of the bourgeois state "superstructure" (nadstroika), and are not applicable to the present social changes in the USSR. The understanding of the nature of the current transition from socialism to communism, it is pointed out, will be further enhanced by remembering Stalin's statement that

the transition from an old grade to a new one by means of an explosion (vzryv) is essential for a society divided into hostile classes, but does not apply to...the socialist society where the transition from the old to the new occurs gradually and without an explosion.

Differences of opinion (konflikt mneniy) among scientists, though officially encouraged, does not appear to gain in popularity among them, according to RADIANSKA UKRAINA of 20 June. The paper does not suggest that clashes of opinion, expressed as they are in the form of unpopular criticism and self-criticism, are avoided by scientists for fear that they might reflect on their future activities. It merely points out that many of them prefer "cheap amicability" (priyatelism) to businesslike criticism. Freedom of opinion, it is charged, is politely avoided at the institutes of philosophy, history, literature, linguistics, art, folklore and ethnography. The deleterious effect of that self-imposed censorship is that no worthwhile scientific works have been produced by the above-named organizations. The paper in fact admits that it is only recently, when some of these scientific establishments have changed their views on free interchange of opinion, that a number of "passable scientific works" has been produced.

Conflict of opinions is also referred to by PRAVDA, in a different context, on 20 June. No science can develop and flourish, Stalin is quoted as saying, without freedom of criticism and clashes of opinion. Differing views, it is asserted, are an excellent weapon "for the overcoming of outmoded views" which are now hampering scientific progress.

MISCELLANEOUS

Discussing "friendship and comradeship of Soviet youth", an anonymous commentator says (20 June) that the personal friendship of Marx and Engels, Lenin and Stalin can be used as "a shining example". Such friendship, however, must be "subordinated" to the great ideas of building communism, and if "the exigencies of the Communist society" interfere with personal friendly relations, the latter must be relegated to a secondary place.